

2023 ECONOMIC REPORT KANSAS CITY REGION



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Kansas City Region is comprised of five counties in the west central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Kansas City and Independence.

The Kansas City Region workforce has more than 608,700 employees, making up 20.4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 52.7 percent of the workforce was male and 47.3 percent was female. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Kansas City Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 22.3 percent of the workforce in the region was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 20.9 percent of the workforce was non-white and 7.9 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Kansas City Region, 8.6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Kansas City Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state. For the region, 10.7 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

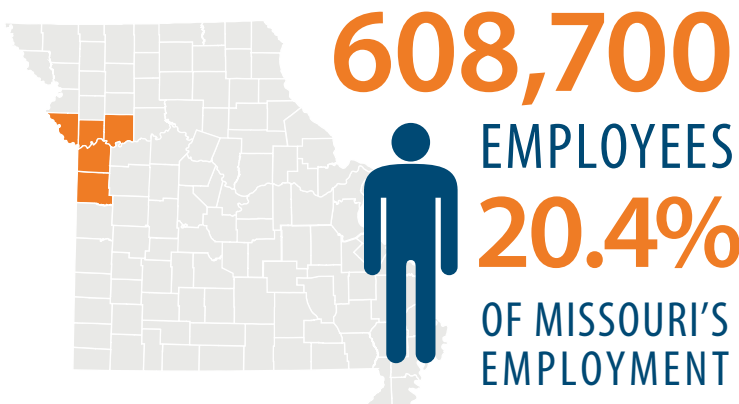
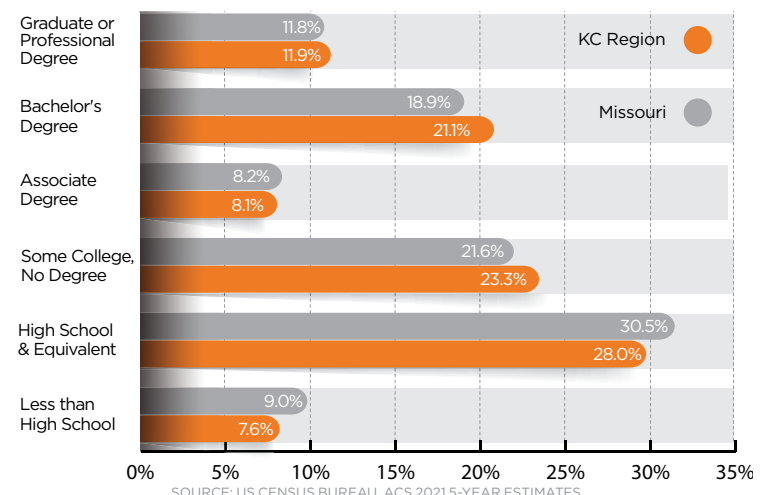
Workforce Demographics

	K.C. Region	Missouri	United States
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	608,725	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.7%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	52.7%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	47.3%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	20.9%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	7.9%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	22.3%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	10.7%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	10.1%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	8.6%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	41.1%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	5.0%	4.9%	4.5%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Kansas City Region are slightly higher than the state average for those with bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-one percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 7.6 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

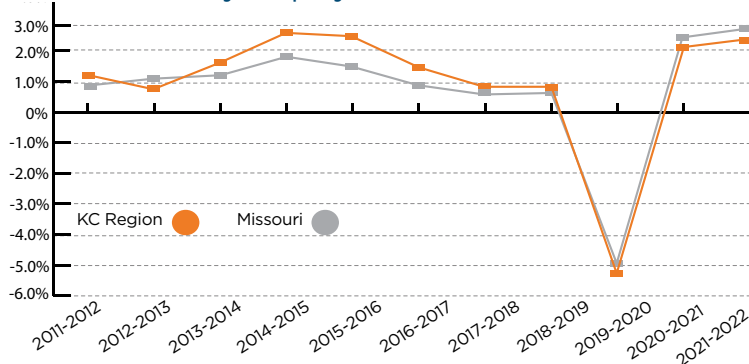
Educational Attainment



KANSAS CITY REGION

The Kansas City Region averaged over 553,300 jobs in 2022. The region gained 12,756 jobs, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2021 to 2022. Missouri employment increased by 2.9 percent in 2022, continuing recovery from the pandemic impacts. From 2018 to 2022, the Kansas City Region employment was flat, showing no growth in the five-year period. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

Kansas City Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

The *Health Care and Social Assistance* industry continues to have the highest employment in the Kansas City region, with close to 82,000 jobs in 2022, even though it has lost over 1,800 jobs from 2018 to 2022, a decrease of 0.4 percent compounded annually for the region. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry and gained over 760 jobs at a compound annual growth rate of 0.2 percent from 2018 to 2022.

The *Construction* industry added the most jobs, with a gain of over 4,164 jobs since 2018, followed by *Manufacturing* (3,729 jobs). *Accommodation and Food Services* is still the third largest industry with over 55,600 jobs in 2022 despite losing over 1,260 jobs since 2018. *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* and *Manufacturing* are among the largest industries in the region. *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* lost jobs at a compound annual rate of -0.3 percent from 2018 to 2022, however, in the same period *Manufacturing* added over 3,700 jobs at a rate of 1.6 percent. *Health Care and Social Assistance*; *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; and *Educational Services* are the industry sectors that lost jobs compared to 2018 employment levels.

Kansas City Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2018	Employment 2022	Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	83,814	81,990	-1,824	-0.4%	\$59,328
Retail Trade	63,616	64,384	768	0.2%	\$37,968
Accommodation & Food Services	56,878	55,609	-1,269	-0.5%	\$25,392
Prof. Scientific, & Technical Services	54,322	53,628	-694	-0.3%	\$98,232
Manufacturing	44,864	48,593	3,729	1.6%	\$63,912
Educational Services	36,998	36,412	-586	-0.3%	\$47,328
Admin. & Supp. & Waste Mngmnt & Remediation Services	34,045	35,512	1,467	0.8%	\$44,412
Construction	29,964	34,128	4,164	2.6%	\$73,668
Finance & Insurance	28,225	29,319	1,094	0.8%	\$102,708
Transportation & Warehousing	23,870	27,305	3,435	2.7%	\$50,436
Wholesale Trade	24,937	25,211	274	0.2%	\$86,148
Other Services (except Public Administration)	16,833	17,444	611	0.7%	\$45,036

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 ANNUAL AVERAGES

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Kansas City Region has higher concentrations in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing*; *Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries*; *Paper Manufacturing*; and *Support Activities for Transportation*.



TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING

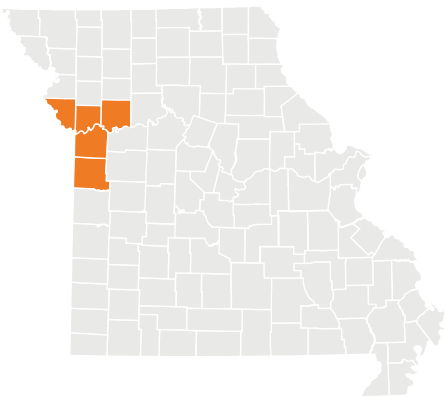
2022 Kansas City Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	12,080	1.9
Performing Arts & Related Industries	3,010	1.6
Paper Manufacturing	2,144	1.6
Support Activities for Transportation	4,570	1.6
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	888	1.5
Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing	551	1.4
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5,671	1.4
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	12,742	1.4
Comput. Infrastructure Providers & Related Services	2,363	1.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	46,788	1.2
Truck Transportation	6,811	1.2
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,617	1.2
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	6,095	1.2
Food Services and Drinking Places	48,472	1.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	20,373	1.1

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

KANSAS CITY REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Kansas City Region between 2020-2030 will be in *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Hospitals; Warehousing and Storage; Specialty Trade Contractors; and Ambulatory Health Care Services* industries.



Kansas City Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	48,628	58,000	9,372	19.3%
Hospitals	30,043	33,144	3,101	10.3%
Warehousing & Storage	4,024	5,920	1,896	47.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	18,414	20,237	1,823	9.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23,517	25,331	1,814	7.7%
Personal & Laundry Services	4,813	6,136	1,323	27.5%
Perform. Arts, Spectator Sports, & Related Indust.	2,024	3,086	1,062	52.5%
Support Activities for Transportation	3,711	4,739	1,028	27.7%
Real Estate	6,043	6,718	675	11.2%
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	7,973	8,456	483	6.1%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations. .

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings include Waiters and Waitresses; Fast Food and Counter Workers; and Cashiers. Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers; Nonfarm Animal Caretakers; and Locker Room, Coatroom, and Dressing Room Attendants are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. Cooks; Assemblers and Fabricators; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. Cooks; Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors; and Physical Therapist Assistants are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, General and Operations Managers; Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers; and Registered Nurses are projected to have the most openings. Nurse Practitioners; Medical and Health Services Managers; and Coaches and Scouts are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

Kansas City Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

KANSAS CITY REGION

Kansas City Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Waiters & Waitresses	10,872	13,448	258	893	1,452	2,603	\$20,372
Fast Food & Counter Workers	10,704	12,750	205	1,137	1,240	2,582	\$27,426
Cashiers	15,028	13,787	-124	1,226	1,379	2,481	\$24,233
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	11,206	14,600	339	826	731	1,896	\$23,712
Stockers & Order Fillers	10,976	11,923	95	652	1,117	1,864	\$28,982
NEXT							
Cooks, Restaurant	5,170	7,873	270	384	558	1,212	\$30,564
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	9,569	10,372	80	380	712	1,172	\$43,902
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,045	8,575	53	340	564	957	\$45,674
Nursing Assistants	5,344	5,766	42	356	314	712	\$28,282
First-Line Supv. of Food Prep. & Serving Workers	3,386	4,231	84	170	388	642	\$38,013
LATER							
General & Operations Managers	12,339	13,705	137	260	807	1,204	\$89,476
Software Develop. & Analysts & Testers	8,871	11,169	230	232	491	953	\$93,713
Registered Nurses	13,984	15,173	119	389	367	875	\$70,319
Accountants & Auditors	6,924	7,544	62	202	428	692	\$66,947
Proj. Manag. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists	6,886	7,371	48	165	350	563	\$82,540

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Kansas City Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Sales Representatives Wholesale and Manufacturing*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

Kansas City Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
NOW	
Retail Salespersons	5,690
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	5,530
Customer Service Representatives	4,620
Fast Food & Counter Workers	4,310
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	3,590
NEXT	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	6,120
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	5,030
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,950
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	4,420
Food Service Managers	3,930
LATER	
Registered Nurses	15,510
Managers, All Other	4,390
Software Developers	4,320
Computer Occupations, All Other	3,400
Medical and Health Services Managers	3,290

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS, MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.